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USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 19406

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARAS 4 AND 5)

USCINCPAC AND USCINCCENT FOR POLADS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [IN](#)
SUBJECT: INCREASE IN SIKH TERRORISM LIKELY: NO
MODERATION IN SIGHT

REF: NEW DELHI 17853

1. SUMMARY: ELEVEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN PUNJAB STATE ON AUGUST 6 IN CONTINUING SECTARIAN STRIFE. DELHI POLICE ARE GEARING UP TO MEET THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY BEFORE THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS ON AUGUST 15. ACTING JATHEDAR DARSHAN SINGH RAGI'S CONVENTION, HELD AUGUST 4, PROVIDED A FORUM FOR EXTREME AND MODERATE POINTS OF VIEW WITH NO OBVIOUS MEETING OF MINDS. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS ELEVEN PEOPLE--NINE OF WHOM WERE HINDUS--WERE KILLED IN TERRORIST RELATED VIOLENCE IN PUNJAB ON AUGUST 6. TWO ALLEGED TERRORISTS WERE KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES WHO RECOVERED A US MADE AUTOMATIC WEAPON FROM ONE OF THE BODIES. ALMOST ALL THE VIOLENT ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT. A COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA ACTIVIST, AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF PARA MEDICAL EMPLOYEES, WAS SHOT BY THREE TERRORISTS. THE KILLERS, WHO LEFT A NOTE CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE RANJIT SINGH RANA GROUP, ESCAPED ON THE VICTIM'S SCOOTER.

3. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, THE HOME MINISTRY "HAS DEFINITE INFORMATION THAT THE EXTREMISTS ARE PLOTTING DO SOMETHING VERY IMPRESSIVE" IN THE WEEK LEADING UP TO INDEPENDENCE DAY. OTHER SOURCES REPORT THAT THE TERRORISTS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE ON AUGUST 15 FOR MAXIMUM ALL-INDIA ATTENTION. DELHI POLICE, REELING FROM THEIR FAILURE TO STOP RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE POSH SOUTH DELHI HOUSING COLONIES, ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL POSSIBLE TERRORIST ENTRY TO THE CITY. ALL ENTRY POINTS TO THE CITY ARE NOW GUARDED THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND THE POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY IMPROVED THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT TERRORISTS WOULD NECESSARILY STRIKE IN DELHI, ALTHOUGH THAT WOULD GIVE THEM THE PUBLICITY THEY DESIRE. BOTH HARYANA AND PUNJAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR SECURITY MECHANISMS.

4. ACTING JATHEDAR DARSHAN SINGH RAGI CONTINUED HIS LONE CAMPAIGN FOR A BALANCING ACT BETWEEN THE MILITANTS AND MODERATES WITH A SIKH CONVENTION ON AUGUST 4. (SEE REFTTEL) THE CONVENTION WAS A NOISY AFFAIR WITH LITTLE CONGRUENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE MODERATES AND MILITANTS AND AN ABUNDANCE OF RADICALISM ON THE PART OF THE MILITANTS. ALTHOUGH MANY PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONVENTION CLEARLY DEMANDED NO LESS THAN KHALISTAN, THE CONVENTION RESOLUTION CALLED FOR THE SIKHS TO BE GIVEN AN "AREA AND POLITICAL SETUP IN NORTH INDIA WHERE SIKHS CAN EXPERIENCE THE GLOW OF FREEDOM." ACCORDING TO RAGI, THE DEMAND WAS A SPINOFF FROM AN ASSURANCE GIVEN TO THE SIKHS BY JAWAHARLAL NEHRU IN 1946. EXPANDING ON THE THEME, THE HIGH PRIEST EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSED "SET-UP" WOULD RESULT IN GREATER AUTONOMY FOR THE STATE. A SIKH

CLAIMING TO REPRESENT SIKHS LIVING OUTSIDE PUNJAB SAID THAT SIKH DEMANDS REPRESENTED DEMANDS OF ALL INDIAN STATES AND URGED THE HIGH PRIESTS TO START A NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AUTONOMY.

15. MODERATE SPEAKERS CALLED FOR A NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS OF THE SIKHS AND MOST SPEAKERS DEMANDED IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANANDAPUR SAHIB RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED FOR GREATER AUTONOMY IN THE STATES. THE MILITANTS, AS WAS EXPECTED, DEMANDED THE FORMATION OF KHALISTAN AND DECLARED THAT THE GUN WAS THE ONLY ANSWER FOR THE SIKHS. THE MILITANT GROUPS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BABBAR KHALSA, ALL QUESTIONED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HIGH PRIESTS BUT MADE NO MOVES TO REPLACE THEM. IN RAGI'S CONCLUDING STATEMENT HE AGREED WITH THE MILITANTS THAT THEY COULD NOT ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS WITHOUT WEAPONS. BUT, THE HIGH PRIEST NOTED, WEAPONS MUST CHANGE WITH THE TIMES AND THE TIMES NO LONGER CALLED FOR VIOLENT STRUGGLE. THE TIME HAD COME, RAGI PLEADED, "FOR UNITY BETWEEN THOSE WHO FAVORED THE GUN AND THOSE WHO FAVORED NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT."

16. THE CONVENTION WAS ATTENDED BY SOME FIVE HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS ALL OF WHOM PASSED THROUGH STRICT POLICE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE ENTERING THE GOLDEN TEMPLE. MODERATE POLITICIANS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AKALI DAL (L), WERE NOT INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION. PARTICIPANTS DID INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE "UNIFIED" AKALI DAL, THE BABBAR KHALSA, BOTH THE MANJIT SINGH AND GURJIT SINGH FACTIONS OF THE ALL INDIA SIKH STUDENTS FEDERATION, THE BHINDRANWALE TIGERS FORCE OF KHALISTAN, THE KHALISTAN COMMANDO FORCE, THE KHALISTAN LIBERATION FORCE, THE SIKH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE DALIT FRONT. INDIVIDUALS LAWYERS, INTELLECTUALS AND RETIRED MILITARY ALSO ATTENDED.

17. COMMENT: THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE AND THE FLAT RESULT OF DARSHAN SINGH RAGI'S ATTEMPTS TO FORGE MILITANT-MODERATE UNITY INDICATE THAT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PROGRESS ON THE SIKH'S SIDE OF THE PUNJAB DILEMMA. THE SPEECHES AT THE SIKH CONVENTION SHOW THE DEEP DIFFERENCES THAT REMAIN BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS. INDEED, THE FINAL DECLARATION IS AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO PAPER OVER THESE DIVISIONS. DARSHAN SINGH RAGI'S ATTEMPT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND THE HIGH PRIEST REMAINS THE BEST HOPE FOR SOME SOLUTION.

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